

Radnor, PA— Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) visited the Radnor Treatment Center, a part of the Joan Karnell Cancer Center at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, which delivers about one third of the Karnell Center's cancer treatment. With nearly 1.4 million individuals diagnosed with cancer each year, the disease accounts for nearly one-quarter of deaths in the United States, exceeded only by heart diseases. The Congressman spoke with doctors at the facility about ways to most effectively direct funding to treat and research cancer. —

“With the dedication of men and women that work at this and other similar centers, we have thankfully seen the cancer death rate decrease over the long term since 1950 and recently between 2004 and 2005,” said Congressman Sestak, a member of the House Caucus and the founder of the Pediatric Cancer Caucus. “However we all know that there is so much more work to be done

As part of his efforts in Washington, the Congressman cosponsored and helped pass unanimously the Caroline Pryce Walker Conquer Childhood Cancer Act, which directed \$30 million to medical research and treatment of pediatric cancers, ensured patients and families would have access to the current treatments and information regarding pediatric cancers, established a population-based national childhood cancer database, and promoted public awareness of pediatric cancers.

“Every day, 46 children—more than two full classrooms of kids—will be diagnosed with cancer. In 2008, an estimated 12,400 children or young people will be diagnosed with cancer, and 2,300 will die from it,” said Congressman Sestak. “Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in children under age 15, and facilities like the Radnor Treatment Center provide hope to the thousands of children and families who have been touched by this disease. It is Congress’ responsibility to make sure the wonderful individuals who work here and other doctors and scientists across the nation receive the tools they need to offer the best treatments and find a cure.”

One of the Congressman's main points of emphasis in his work on health care issues is preventative care. He has advocated for free screenings for seniors through the CHAMP Act, which he helped pass and would eliminate co-payments and deductibles for services such as prostate and colorectal cancer exams, mammograms, and bone mass measurement, among other procedures. Furthermore, he co-sponsored and helped pass the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (H.R. 1108), which was designed to diminish the number of smokers and, in turn, the amount of health problems resulting from it. The bill would authorize

the Food Drug Administration to reinstitute marketing and promotion restrictions, regulate nicotine and other dangerous components of tobacco and cigarette smoke, and ban marketing and promotion activities the industry employs to attract young smokers. Additionally, the Congressman voted for and helped pass H.R. 1237, Cytology Proficiency Improvement Act, which improves the analysis of tests for cervical cancer by ensuring that health care professionals who read tests for cervical cancer are skilled in today's medical technology.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

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